

P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2 2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH) (070) 3 40 20 40 FAX (070) 3 40 30 16 Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets

Generaldirektion 1

Directorate General 1

Direction générale 1

HOFFMANN EITLE
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4

Arabellastrasse 4 81925 München ALLEMAGNE



0 7. April 2006

HOFFMANN • EITLE, MÜNCHEN PATENTANWÄLTE RECHTSANWÄLTE



**EPO Customer Services** 

Tel.: +31 (0)70 340 45 00

Date

06.04.06

Reference 110 637 a/fi

Application No./Patent No. 05018578.4 - 2304

Applicant/Proprietor

SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION

#### Communication

The extended European search report is enclosed.

The extended European search report includes, pursuant to Rule 44a EPC, the European search report (R. 44 EPC) or the partial European search report/ declaration of no search (R. 45 EPC) and the European search opinion.

Copies of documents cited in the European search report are attached.

1 additional set(s) of copies of such documents is (are) enclosed as well.

The following have been approved:

Abstract

**☑** Title

the Abstract was modified and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

#### Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





# **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

**Application Number** EP 05 01 8578

Category	Citation of document with ind of relevant passa	lication, where appropriate, ges	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Х	US 5 646 660 A (MURR 8 July 1997 (1997-07	AY ET AL)	1-7	B41J2/175
X	EP 0 571 093 A (HEWL 24 November 1993 (19 * column 1, line 22 *		1-7	
A	US 5 411 343 A (CHIL 2 May 1995 (1995-05- * column 4, line 4 - * column 6, line 9 - *	02)	1-7	
А	US 6 161 915 A (BOLA 19 December 2000 (20 * column 5, line 1 - 2,3a,3b *	00-12-19)	1-7	
A	EP 0 812 693 A (SEIK 17 December 1997 (19 * column 6, line 36 figures 7c,7d *	97-12-17)	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
А	EP 0 412 459 A (CANO 13 February 1991 (19 * page 14, line 40 - figures 12-15 *	91-02-13)	1	
A	EP 0 710 568 A (SEIK 8 May 1996 (1996-05- * column 20, line 4 15,24 * * column 18, line 14 *	08)	1	
	The present search report has be	-/ en drawn up for all claims		
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
	The Hague	27 March 2006	Ada	m, E
X : part Y : part docu A : tech	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone cularly relevant if combined with anothe liment of the same category nological background —written disclosure	L: document cited for	cument, but publi le n the application or other reasons	shed on, or



## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 05 01 8578

Category	Citation of document with indicatio of relevant passages	n, where appropriate,	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	of relevant passages  EP 0 832 747 A (CANON KI 1 April 1998 (1998-04-0) * column 11, line 40 - of figures 3,4 * * column 12, line 46 - of figure 6 *	K) 1) column 12, line 25;	to claim	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
X : parti Y : parti docu A : tech	The present search report has been dr Place of search The Hague ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS cularly relevant if taken alone cularly relevant if combined with another ment of the same category nological background -written disclosure	Date of completion of the search  27 March 2006  T: theory or principle E: earlier patent doc after the filing dat D: document cited in L: document cited for	e underlying the incument, but publiste the application or other reasons	Examiner  11, E  Invention shed on, or

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

27-03-2006

	atent document d in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US	5646660	Α	08-07-1997	NONE			
EP	0571093	Α	24-11-1993	DE DE JP JP US	69321028 69321028 3428683 6091877 5363134	T2 B2 A	22-10-19 18-02-19 22-07-20 05-04-19 08-11-19
US	5411343	Α	02-05-1995	NONE			
US	6161915	Α	19-12-2000	NONE			
EP	0812693	Α	17-12-1997	WO JP US	9723352 3726286 6102517	B2	03-07-19 14-12-20 15-08-20
EP	0412459	A	13-02-1991	AT AT AT AT AU CA CN DE DE DE DE DE SG	227649 213999 311985 648985 6024190 2022756 1491798 1141241 69032780 69032780 69033377 69033377 69033928 69033928 69034019 69034019	T T T T B2 A A1 A A D1 T2 D1 T2 D1 T2 T3 A1 A1 A1 A1	15-12-19 15-12-19 15-11-20 15-03-20 15-12-20 12-05-19 07-02-19 06-02-19 28-04-20 29-01-19 07-01-19 02-06-19 05-01-20 29-06-20 11-04-20 18-07-20 19-12-20 09-10-20 01-02-19 01-09-20 24-03-20 16-11-19 19-12-20
EP	0710568	А	08-05-1996	DE DE DE DE DE DE	69525866	T2 D1 T2 D1	24-02-20 21-09-20 18-04-20 07-11-20 13-02-20 30-10-20

### ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 05 01 8578

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

27-03-2006

	atent document d in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP	0710568	A		HK HK US	1011657 1012499 5748210	<b>A</b> 1	29-12-2000 29-08-2003 05-05-1998
EP	0832747	А	01-04-1998	AU AU CA CN DE DE JP KR US	732002 3611997 2214312 1180013 69729520 69729520 10119314 230534 6293652	A1 A1 A D1 T2 A B1	12-04-2001 05-03-1998 28-02-1998 29-04-1998 22-07-2004 25-08-2005 12-05-1998 15-11-1999 25-09-2001

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82